

WHAT'S HAPPENING

January & February 2026

269.781.7821 / yourmdl.org

Mon - Thurs 10 - 8:30 / Fri & Sat 10 - 5:30

Closed: January 1

Winter of Whimsy

HAPPY CAMP 2026

HAPPY CAMP PROGRAMS
ARE DESIGNED TO HELP US
FEEL JOY THROUGH THE
WINTER MONTHS!

EXPLORE
DISCOVER
GROW

MARSHALL
DISTRICT
LIBRARY



PROGRAMS FOR EVERYONE

Winter Reading Challenge

Take advantage of this cozy season to catch up on some reading. This year's challenge is filled with whimsy: from stars to bubbles, we hope it fills you with joy...& helps you discover some new genres, authors, & sections of the library. Visit as soon as January 3 to get started! The challenge ends March 3 so there's lots of time to be delighted by what you discover & earn a whimsical prize...or 2.

Little Free Puzzle Library

Enjoy a community-wide puzzle swap throughout the winter months of January & February. You can take one home anytime you like. If you have one to add to the little free library, simply drop it by the Help Desk & we'll put into the rotation of puzzle fun. Thanks, in advance, for sharing.

Little Free Spice Library

While supplies last, our pantry cupboard is wide open for sharing. Drop by to pick up a familiar spice or something you've never tried before. Interested in more spice-related fun? Sign up for our monthly Spice Club.

Little Free Postcard Library

To inspire you to stay in touch this winter by putting pen to paper, we're sharing postcards designed by Kellogg Community College's Art Department. Pick one out, write a message & add an address. Want us to mail it for you? Drop it in our "private mail bin," & we'll add a stamp for you before dropping it in the mail.

Book Bingo: Bird Edition

Wed, February 11, 6:30 - 7:30 pm

Bingo is back with a feathery new focus! This classic library event returns with a fun, themed twist. We'll be playing with the Sibley Backyard Birding Bingo set, matching colorful species to your card. Whether you're an expert birder or a beginner, come join the fun & you might just fly home with some great new book prizes! Everyone ages 5+ is invited to join!

Reading with Leona

Thursdays, January 8 & February 12, 6:30 - 7:30 pm

Leona is in the building! Leona is a certified therapy dog through the Alliance of Therapy dogs. Her favorite things are meeting new reading friends, eating all the snacks, & playing disc-golf with her humans. Reading with Leona can help to build a young reader's confidence, improve comprehension, & boost communication skills. (You'll receive a minimum 15 minute time slot during the hour once you sign in at the Help Desk; first-come, first-serve.)

Used Books Sale

Fri, February 6, 10 am - 5 pm & Sat, February 7, 10 am - 4 pm

A wide selection of gently used books & media are waiting for their next adventure - going home with you. Cash & card accepted; all funds raised go toward library programming. Your shelves will thank you.



WEEKLY SERVICES

Tech Time*

Mondays, 5 - 8 pm & Wednesdays, 1 - 4 pm

Our technology team is on hand to assist you with questions regarding smart phones, laptops & more during drop-in Tech Time. Up to 30 minute sessions are available on a first-come, first-served basis. Sign in at the Help Desk.

History Center Hours*

Tuesdays, 10 am - 12 pm & Fridays, 1 - 3 pm

The MDL History Center--where you can explore unique documents, yearbooks, & digitization technology--welcomes you to visit anytime the library is open. Local history librarians are on hand during drop-in hours twice a week; during these sessions, they are happy to aid with research, the Center's technology, or help to get you started on your genealogy journey.

*Or by appointment

Contact the library to arrange for a 1:1 session with a member of the technology department or a local history librarian if these days/times don't work for you.

ADULT PROGRAMS

Extra! Extra! Find Your Family in Online Newspapers!

Mon, January 12, 11 am - 12 pm 

Ever wonder about your family's newsworthy deeds? Join MDL librarian Melissa Rzepczynski in learning about NewspaperArchive, a digital database of local news sources from Marshall, Albion, Tekonsha, & many more newspapers. Cozy up at this program & learn how to search articles, investigate headlines, & locate individuals to uncover your family's story with this digital resource. This program is intended for adults only.

Sourdough Dreaming

Mon, January 12, 6:30 - 8 pm

Is there anything cozier than the smell of freshly baked bread? Make all of your sourdough dreams come true by attending this hands-on introductory class presented by Jen Rice. Learn what a sourdough starter is, how to keep it alive, & how to prepare, score, & bake a delicious loaf. This is a beginner-baker friendly program intended for adults; however, teens enthusiastic about baking are welcome to attend. All materials are provided.

Can't Wait! 2026

Wed, January 14, 6:30 - 7:30 pm

Birthdays, holidays, sports seasons...the next book in the series! Sometimes waiting is half the fun of the anticipation, & librarians at YourMDL are also excited about upcoming books. Join us for this special countdown of Can't Wait titles that might already be on your TBR (To Be Read) List or might catch your attention for the first time. Readalike titles will be included to help you read similar books as you eagerly wait for The One. This program is intended for adults but voracious teen readers may enjoy as well.

Herbal Houseplants - How to Grow Beautiful Herbs Indoors, For Flavor, Fragrance, & Fun!

Tues, January 20, 6:30 - 8 pm

In partnership with the Marshall Area Garden Club, join us in learning about herbal houseplants. Author, lecturer, & conservationist Susan Betz presents on which herbs perform best as houseplants, how to care for them, & even how to harvest & use your homegrown herbs for culinary creations, household cleaning products, herbal teas, handmade crafts, & more. This program is intended for adults; however teens with an enthusiasm for gardening are welcome to attend.

Crafty January: Whimsical Valentine Canvas

Thurs, January 22, 6:30 - 7:30 pm OR Fri, January 23 11 am - 12 pm

We're not just painting this month; we're adding layers & layers of shimmer & sparkle. Transform a plain canvas using acrylic paint, jewels, & glitter of various shapes & sizes. All supplies provided for this free program; Ages 18+ only.

Yoga with Lucy: a Sampler

Sat, January 24, 10:30 - 11:30 am

Have you enjoyed Mindfulness Mondays &/or Wind Down Wednesdays during past Happy Camps at the library...or have you been looking for a local yoga instructor? Sample a class of Yoga with Lucy! She offers mindful slow flow with simple breathwork & permission to make the practice yours. Flows are beginner-friendly & offer space to push yourself. Please dress for movement & bring a yoga mat & water. Some mats will be available to borrow. Lucy teaches drop-in yoga weekly in Marshall. Learn more on Facebook by searching "Yoga with Lucy". Ages 18+ are invited to this free program.

Uproot & Sprout: a History of Local Foods

Mon, January 26, 6:30 - 7:30 pm

Have you visited Uproot Market & Eatery, a consumer-owned food cooperative in downtown Battle Creek, yet? While Uproot is quite new, the organization behind its development, Sprout, has been working in local food access for over 15 years, & has plenty of amazing history to show for it. "From SOIL to SOUL: We advance the local food system by providing access to fresh food & community connections," is the tagline welcoming you to their website & the vision that fuels their work. Join Scott Wright, Kitchen Manager at Uproot & Battle Creek native, for the history of their organization, how they work with local vendors & community partners, & how YOU can support & benefit from the local foods movement.



Programs with this require registration.



ADULT PROGRAMS, CONT'D

Magic of Moviemaking ^(R)

Wed, January 28, 6:30 - 8 pm

This winter, library assistants Cade Carver & Josh Heisler are back with another program about the magic of movies! Join them for a cozy, discussion-based presentation about the whimsical worlds that keep us warm in winter weather. We'll revisit some classic favorites of the season &, hopefully, all leave with some new titles on our "must-watch" list for future viewing. Movie snacks provided. Intended for adults but teens passionate about film are welcome to attend.

Meet Your Neighbors:

Viking Warrior Axe Throwing Co. ^(R)

Mon, February 2, 6:30 - 7:30 pm

Meet our new neighbor, Viking Warrior Axe Throwing Co. Learn about the sport of axe throwing in this fun, safe, & supervised environment. Find the joy in testing your axe throwing accuracy, socialize with fellow community members, & relieve stress along the way! Due to the active nature of axe throwing, closed toe shoes are required & comfortable attire that allows for easy movement is encouraged. Meet at 111 E Michigan Ave in Marshall. Ages 18+ only.

Medicare 101 ^(R)

Tues, February 3, 11 am - 12 pm

Winter days are a great time to cozy up & contemplate life's many decisions. One important choice comes when we turn 65 & have important healthcare choices to make. Leslie Hurd, who has been in the health industry for 24 years & is an independent licensed insurance agent certified by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), will visit the library, along with Jason Taylor, for a presentation about the basics of Medicare. During this informational program, you will learn about what Medicare is, when you are eligible to enroll, options for supplemental coverage, how health savings accounts & Medicare work together, what is & is not allowed when marketing to Medicare beneficiaries, & more. Note: no information will be given about specific plans or carriers. Ages 18+ only.

Organizing the Family Attic ^(R)

Mon, February 9, 11 am - 12 pm

Take a walk down memory lane this winter & learn how to organize your family keepsakes, including photos, papers, documents, & scrapbooks. MDL Librarian Melissa Rzepczynski shares tips on how to arrange your family mementos & use digital organization methods. Whether you are beginning your genealogy journey or an experienced genealogist, discover new ways to catalogue your family's precious memories. This program is intended for adults. Registration required.

Freezer Meals ^(R)

Mon, February 9, 6:30 - 7:30 pm

Cooking & enjoying food can be satisfying & even comforting. Answering "what's for dinner?" ... Not so much. Join Kellie Jordan, Food Safety Instructor with the MSU Extension Office, for an evening of instruction on freezer meals. Discover how to plan for busy (or even lazy) evenings with make-ahead meals that freeze safely & reheat easily. Ages 18+ only.

Learn to Love Your Instant Pot ^(R)

Tues, February 17, 6:30 - 7:30 pm

Need to dust off that Instant Pot you haven't used in awhile...or maybe ever? Warm up to using it by learning from seasoned Culinary Instructor Mary Spencer of tasteacooksplace.net. While sharing plenty of information & tips to take the fear out of using this handy kitchen tool, Mary will demonstrate 2 recipes. A self-taught cook, Mary is based in the Detroit area but conducts numerous classes for corporations, service organizations & individuals all over Michigan. Learn to love your Instant Pot by attending this beginner-friendly demonstration. This program is intended for adults; however, teens with a passion for cooking are welcome to attend.

Crafty February: Carving & Printing on Fabric ^(R)

Thurs, February 19, 6:30 - 7:30 pm OR

Fri, February 20, 11 am - 12 pm

Dip into the world of printmaking & try your hand at block printing. Using special tools, we'll carve negative space into a Lino block to make a one-of-a-kind stamp. Play with different inks & put your mark on a tote bag you can't find anywhere else. All materials are provided. Ages 18+ only.



ONGOING MONTHLY ADULT PROGRAMS

Books on Tap ^(R)

Tuesdays, 6:30 - 7:30 pm, Dark Horse Brewery Commons

January 6 - *Strange Practice* by Vivian Shaw

February 3 - *Between Two Moons* by Aisha Abdel Gawad

March 3 - *The Teller of Small Fortunes* by Julie Leong

Monday Night Book Club ^(R)

Mondays, 6:30 - 7:30 pm

January 19 - *The Lost Bookshop* by Evie Woods

February 16 - *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* by Lewis Carroll

Spice Club ^(R)

Tuesdays, 6:30 - 7:30 pm

January 27 - Bread

February 24 - Casseroles

One dish, endless applications. Each cook has their own methods & favorites when it comes to classic foods. This winter, Spice Club continues with the challenge to highlight specific recipes. Make your version, your favorite, your icon, & show it off. Meetings are held monthly; registration is required each month & is limited to one spice kit per household. Registration includes the month's spice; attendance at the gathering is optional. Marshall District Library is not responsible for any reactions or sensitivities to spices. Cook with caution. Ages 18+ only.

Magic of Colon ^(R)

Mon, February 23, 6:30 - 7:30 pm

Marshall's magical cousin is Colon, MI, known as the Magic Capital of the World! Magician, poet, & mischief maker BJ Mallen will share the history of Colon & how it came to claim this title. From the story of Harry Blackstone Sr. to the founding of Abbott's Magic & their annual Magic Get-Together convention, Mallen will include tales of rivalries, innovations, & the colorful personalities that shaped magic in the village. Join us for an evening & find out why Colon continues to charm magicians from all over the world. This program is intended for adults; however, younger patrons with a passion for magic may attend.

Next Chapter Magic: TBR Picks with Personality ^(R)

Wed, February 25, 6:30 - 7:30 pm

Switch up or fill up your TBR (To Be Read) List as librarians from YourMDL highlight a selection of whimsical reads. Featuring genres that lean to the cozy side, get a teaser to popular & lesser known titles that are full of the fantastical, mysterious, satirical, & audacious. Allow us to make the task of choosing your next good story a celebration & not a chore.

Learn to Sew: Play with Free Motion Applique ^(R)

Thurs, February 12, 6:30 - 8:30 pm OR

Fri, February 13, 1 - 3 pm OR

Mon, February 16, 11 am - 1 pm

Learn how to embellish using raw edge fabric applique this month. We'll learn to use fusible web & free motion stitching...& then play. All supplies provided this month, including a blank tote bag for decorating. This is a project requiring being comfortable with an iron; it is recommended for those ages 12+. Those not yet in high school should attend with an adult. (Brand new? Let us know you'd like an Introduction to Sewing 1:1 before your program date by emailing Shauna at swanteks@yourmdl.org or calling 269.781.7821 x1800.)



DID YOU KNOW?

You Can Visit the History Center Anytime!

Visit anytime the library is open & stop at the Help Desk for entry into the History Center. Browse old yearbooks, look at plat maps or cemetery maps, or use the media conversion equipment (once you have been trained). Explore. Discover. Grow.



Programs with this require registration.



TEEN PROGRAMS

Grades 6-12 only.

Check the online calendar for Afterschool Programs.

Monthly Loot Box ^(R)

A mystery box of goodies that leads to whimsical mini adventures - Teen Loot Boxes! Learn loads with gifts & prompts to stretch your brain (& snacks to fuel it). An enticing book to read also helps new year explorations. Save all the awesome loot inside & return the library book & box when you are finished. Loot participants must return their box in order to register for the next month's box. Sign up while supplies last! Teens who do not have a library card are welcome to participate; a non-library book will be provided.

Teen Night: For the Pets: Crafting to Give Back ^(R)

Fri, January 9, 5:30 - 7 pm

Puppies & kittens often lift our moods, so let's step up & help them out. Craft fuzzy & fun pet toys to donate to the Humane Society of South Central Michigan. Director Jessica Gilbert will also join us to discuss key points of animal care, volunteering, & fostering, as well as bring a special guest (to cuddle!).

Teen Night: DIY Mini Mirror Balls ^(R)

Thurs, January 15, 6:30 - 7:30 pm

Start off the new year with Sparkle! Create a mini mirror ball to decorate your room, your locker, or anywhere that needs a party boost. We'll use styrofoam balls & mirror tiles to reflect our true colors.

Teen Night: Volunteers Wanted! ^(R)

Stuffed Animal Sleepover

Fri, February 6, 4:30 - 7:30 pm

MDL needs your help at our Stuffed Animal Sleepover event to make magical memories for our younger patrons. Help us welcome our stuffed animal guests to the library during the event, then we'll take photos of all the crazy things they do in the library after hours!

Teen Night: DIY Felt Roses ^(R)

Thurs, February 12, 6:30 - 7:30 pm

Roses are red, these felt ones are, too. Cut, twist, & glue a bouquet just for you! No thorns to poke, no petals to wilt. Just crafty cool roses, perfectly built.



YOUTH & FAMILY PROGRAMS

Pizza & Stories ^(R)

Tues, January 13; Thurs, January 29; Tues, February 10, 6 - 7 pm

Meet at the library for a very special storytime dinner this winter. Bring a blanket & get cozy as library staff share their favorite stories & songs. This program is designed for those in grades PreK-2; family members are welcome to join. Registration requested but not required.

Stuffed Animal Sleepover ^(R)

Fri, February 6, 5:30 - 6:30 pm & Sat, February 7, 11 am - 12 pm

Does your favorite stuffed animal ever wonder what happens at the library after hours? Drop off your trusty companion for an exciting, overnight adventure at the library! They'll enjoy a staff-chaperoned sleepover & get up to some wonderful mischief. Return the next morning for a special storytime, pick up your stuffer, & receive a photo-book of their unforgettable night of fun! This program is intended for Pre-K through 5th grade.

Water Fun with the Kalamazoo Watershed Council ^(R)

Mon, February 16, 2 - 3 pm

Use a day off school to learn more about your own backyard. Enjoy a special reading of a recently published picture book all about the Kalamazoo River Watershed! After the story, kids & families can participate in a fun, hands-on activity to learn more about water, nature, & how we can all help keep our watershed clean & healthy. This program is intended for grades 1-5 but all are welcome to attend.

Science of Magic ^(R)

Thurs, February 26, 6 - 7 pm

Magic & science collide as local magician John Sherwood leads participants through various tricks & illusions. This family-friendly magic show will highlight using the scientific method to help budding magicians use logic along with their imaginations. This program is designed for those ages 8-15; parents are invited to participate, too.



EARLY LITERACY PROGRAMS

Intended for ages 2-6 unless noted; all ages welcome. Please note there is a break week each month.

Toddler Time

Mondays - 11 am

January 5, 12, & 19; February 2, 9, & 16

Grow together in this storytime designed for beginning early literacy. Through the practices of Talk, Sing, Read, Write, & Play, caregivers & their little learners will build a base for reading, social-emotional learning, school readiness & more—all through fun stories, fingerplays, & songs. This program is planned with ages 18 months-3 years in mind, but all ages are welcome to attend.

Jumpin' & Jammin'

Wednesdays - 11 am

January 7, 14, & 21; February 4, 11, & 18

Move your body & exercise your brain during a full half-hour of music & movement. We'll get to use our little muscles & big muscles, which helps our brains get bigger & get ready for school. Please remember to wear comfortable shoes.

STEAM Explorers

Fridays - 11 am

January 9, 16, & 23; February 6, 13, & 20

Discovery is right round the corner as children learn while they play. Through guided activities, sensory bins, freestyle crafts, & group stories, your little explorer will delve into the worlds of science, technology, engineering, art, & math! Baby toys will be available for younger siblings.

Cookies & Cocoa

Tuesdays - 6 - 7 pm

January 6, 20, & 27; February 3, 17, & 24

Need a space to have some adult time in peace while your little ones explore & engage in various crafts & activities? We've got you covered. Children can free-play while you relax with a cup of cocoa & some cookies. Let your children explore the various activities or discover some new children's books. The youth area is for all families with kids who are elementary-age & younger. No registration required. Just drop by for some downtime & maybe even adult conversation.

Baby & Me: Caregiver Connection ^(R)

Wednesdays - 6 pm

January 21 & February 18

Take the opportunity to meet & learn with new caregivers. Those who have welcomed a new little one in the past 18 months are invited to explore early learning basics for baby as well as to commune with fellow caregivers. This program is designed with ages birth-18 months in mind & their caregivers.



SOMETHING ON SATURDAYS

LEGO Club ^(R)

Saturdays, January 3 & 31, 11 am - 12:30 pm

Design. Construct. Create. Build based on an offered challenge or do your thing with library-provided LEGOs. Other building & architecture materials will be available as well. This program is designed for youth in grades 2+; however, younger builders are welcome with adult supervision.

Poké-Pals Meet-Up

Saturdays, January 10, & February 14,

11 am - 12:30 pm

Pokémon Trainers of all levels are invited to gather for a bit of fun & friendship. This event is your chance to meet other Pokémon enthusiasts, share your passion, & chat about all things Pokémon. Don't miss this opportunity to be a part of an amazing Poké-Pals community! No registration required; just drop by!

Pancakes & Puzzles ^(R)

Sat, January 17, 11 am - 12:30 pm

Fluffy pancakes flipped by you & fun jigsaw puzzles to solve create a perfect Saturday Morning at YourMDL. Make it a mini party by grabbing friends & family - the more the merrier when there's breakfast & games. All ages invited.

Rockstar Reader: Aim for the Moon ^(R)

Sat, February 21, 11 am - 12 pm

We're rockin' all the way to outer space for this special Rockstar Reader event. Blast off with stellar astronaut-themed stories, songs, & games, all to celebrate every little learner aiming to read 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten. This event is designed for preschoolers & their families.



DIRECTOR'S NOTE

Angela Semifero

If you have any questions or suggestions about library services, please contact me at 269.781.7821 x1100 or semiferoa@yourmdl.org.

Welcome to our annual Happy Camp winter program. Happiness can look very different to different people & for the last few years, the library has spent some time during the gray days of winter exploring things that can bring people joy. This year's theme "Winter of Whimsy," is dedicated to the fanciful, the playful, & in some cases, the magical.

Winter is the perfect time to take on creative projects & to explore new interests. This winter the library has programs & collections that can help you get started.

For those hoping to curl up at home for the winter, (or escape to warmer temperatures!) Marshall District Library offers a variety of services. Did you know that the Marshall District Library's website provides access to downloadable books, audiobooks, movies & music? The Libby & Hoopla apps can be used on mobile devices. We have also subscribed to a streaming service, Kanopy, which allows you to use your library card to access a collection of thousands of movies & television shows on your mobile device or smart tv. Library staff members are always happy to give recommendations or walk you through how to set these services up on your device.

One of our regular programs that came out of Happy Camp a couple of years ago is our monthly Spice Club. Adults can sign up to receive a spice packet, learn about the history of a spice, & explore some new recipes. A gathering is held each month for trading recipes & taste-testing food. If experimenting with cooking sounds like a great winter project, we've also got programs on sourdough, instant pot cooking, & freezer meals for you. We'll have plenty of opportunities to learn about crafts, gardening, & even axe-throwing. We're also looking forward to opening our Little Free Puzzle Library again in January & February. Have a puzzle you want to donate? We'll be happy to take it for this program. Take a look at the library's website at www.yourmdl.org for other events listings.

Have you thought about learning a new language? We have an app for that. Have you considered researching your family history? Connect with one of our librarians during Drop-In History Center Hours. Want to learn something new about technology or your personal mobile device? Our Tech Team is here for you. The library offers one-on-one appointments with our staff for a number of interests from technology to history, resume writing to knitting. Contact us at the Help Desk & we will get you in touch with the right staff member.

We hope you all have a winter full of wonder & joy. Marshall District Library is looking forward to spending another year helping our community to explore, discover, & grow. If you have any questions or suggestions about library services, please contact me at 269.781.7821 x1100 or semiferoa@yourmdl.org.



EXPLORE · DISCOVER · GROW

124 W. GREEN STREET · MARSHALL, MI 49068

REGISTRATION NOTE Programs with this require registration.

All programs are FREE & open to the public. Watch your email for a response within 24-48 hours. As space & supplies are limited, your email will either confirm your registration or alert you to waitlist status.

When registering for programs, confirmation emails come from mdleventregistration@marshalldistrictlibrary.org. Use this address if you would like to search for them &/or alert your email that it is not spam. Emails often include details applicable to each program. (If you do not have regular email access, you may contact our Help Desk at any time.)

Our programs are free (& very popular)! We often have a waiting list; if you register but can no longer attend, please let us know!